



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
HEADQUARTERS**

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December 13, 2005

Fred Aguiar, Secretary
State and Consumer Services Agency
Chairman, Building Standards Commission
Re: Code Adoption Status Report
Dear Secretary Aguiar and Commissioners,

Activity in our code development efforts continues to gain momentum at the State Fire Marshal's office. As previously promised, it is our intention to keep you informed of our progress and efforts in developing the "next generation" of the California Building Code, California Fire Code. As we make progress, our definition and direction to the 14 working groups in using "holistic approach" becomes more precise. We have moved from presenting a philosophical goal to identifying specific direction to our stakeholder volunteers. While refinement continues, the Office of the State Fire Marshal remains focused on one of the original tenants that the final adoption package includes only those amendments reasonably necessary to maintain a substantially equivalent level of fire and life safety in California. The enormous task of evaluating the necessity and categorizing those changes as "need-to-do" as opposed to "nice-to-do" is part of this office's code development plan that extends beyond this immediate action and into future code cycles.

To accomplish this task, I have put into action a proven project management philosophy that creates a structure of core and working groups, SFM Liaison, and scheduling, resources, and goals. This month, I am pleased to announce the following additions to our organization and accomplishments:

SFM Office: The Assistant State Fire Marshal is my representative for this project. The Assistant State Fire Marshal oversees the Core Group's efforts by providing resources, guidance, and offering solutions to problems that may arise. I am pleased to announce that Governor Schwarzenegger has appointed Kate Dargan as Assistant State Fire Marshal. Kate will take the lead in the Code Adoption Process for the OSFM, as well as finalizing the WUI Bldg. Standards processes with the Building Standards Commission.

Core Group: This group is composed of designated individuals and alternates from the core stakeholders to this code process. The organizations represented on this group have no economic interest in this effort. The Core Group will provide overall direction to the Work Groups, meet routinely with Work Group Leaders, and work under the SFM policy direction. A remaining vacancy of the representative from one of our stakeholder groups, the California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs was recently filled by Battalion Chief Ronald Jackson, Los Angeles City Fire Department. Attached, you will find the minutes of the most recent Core Group meeting.

Work Groups: Our 14 Working Groups have been very busy the kick-off meetings in September. Within the last month, there have been 17 scheduled workgroup meetings with notices and meeting minutes posted on the SFM website. The workgroup's final product, a comprehensive package of recommendations to the SFM, can only be as

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good as the directions they are given. To address this, the Core Group recently prepared revised directions regarding the content and format of the workgroup's final package.

Code Documents – ICC has provided training on eSolution, to the Core Group and working group leaders. All workgroups will be taking advantage of information sharing afforded by this tool.

Timeline Schedule:

It is my commitment to bring to the Building Standards Commission a code adoption package that has the consensus support from our stakeholders. In order to assure that this valuable stakeholder input has been acquired, I have directed that three additional stakeholder meetings be included in our code development effort. Assistant State Fire Marshal Kate Dargan will be finalizing the time and date of these meeting tentatively scheduled for January 20th, February 22nd, and March 24th. At these meetings, our stakeholders will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes. After each meeting the workgroups will be tasked with evaluating all comments and reaching positions of mutual agreement.

Summary of this month's Key Accomplishments:

- Appointment of Assistant State Fire Marshal Kate Dargan
- Metropolitan Fire Department representative Ronald Jackson joins Core Group
- 17 workgroup meetings scheduled
- Three stakeholder meetings added to the code development process
- Creation of an Area and Height subgroup
- Updated directions developed regarding content and format for the workgroups

It is my pleasure to provide you with an update of our status. If I can provide any additional information regarding the progress being made toward developing the rulemaking package regarding the adoption of the 2006 International Building, Fire, and Residential codes please do not hesitate to contact me or look on our website at:

<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/CodeAdoptionProcess.html>

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Grijalva'.

RUBEN GRIJALVA
State Fire Marshal